



# AETC News Clips

## Randolph AFB, Texas



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### **Prosecutor says money was motive in AF sergeant's killing**

Web Posted: 08/04/2005 12:00 AM CDT

**Rhea Davis**  
**Express-News Staff Writer**

Jeremy Farr shot Air Force Sgt. Derrick Tolliver in the back of the head to cash in on the military man's \$350,000 life insurance policy. That's what prosecutors told jurors Wednesday on the first day of testimony in Farr's murder trial.

Farr, 23, has pleaded not guilty in the Nov. 20, 2000, slaying. He faces five to 99 years in prison if convicted.

Tolliver was shot twice in his Northeast Bexar County home after returning from the grocery store with his girlfriend.

Immediately, Farr was a suspect, prosecutor Jim Wheat told jurors, but at the time investigators weren't able to gather enough evidence against him to charge him with murder.

The case went cold, but was resurrected last year after investigators with the Bexar County Sheriff's Department Cold Case Unit received a tip that Farr had described the killing to an informant in Arkansas, where Farr was living.

At the time of the killing, Farr was living with Tolliver's ex-wife and her boyfriend, according to testimony. Wheat told jurors the three plotted Tolliver's killing so they could collect on two life insurance policies.

The ex-wife and boyfriend were questioned but never charged in Tolliver's killing.

Farr was to receive \$50,000 for killing Tolliver, Wheat said during opening arguments.

He told jurors that gunpowder residue found on Farr's clothing and a secretly taped interview with Farr will prove he committed the crime.

But defense attorney Juan Aguilera told jurors his client is not guilty and that the taped conversation was not a confession.

Farr told investigators he was out bowling with the victim's ex-wife and her boyfriend the night of the slaying, according to testimony.

Bexar County sheriff's investigators testified Wednesday that Tolliver's house was ransacked, but that it quickly became apparent someone was trying to make the killing look like a robbery.

Testimony will continue today in Judge Philip Kazen's 227th District Court.



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### Brooks' barrels of monkeys no fun for city

Web Posted: 08/05/2005 12:00 AM CDT

**Greg Jefferson**  
**Express-News Staff Writer**

Brooks City-Base is the final resting place for seven barrels of monkeys that apparently were irradiated in the name of military research.

The monkeys, injected with iodine-125, a light radioactive isotope, are buried in 55-gallon drums in one of the former Air Force base's six landfills.

Officials, however, said the carcasses — interred in 1974 — pose no threat to public health. Iodine-125 has a half-life of 60 days, meaning half the isotope's atoms decay within that time.

"Both the Brooks Development Authority and the Air Force have performed tests at the site and have found no signs of radiation," Air Force spokesman Larry Farlow said Thursday.

It was unclear what experiments were conducted on the primates or exactly how many were buried at the roughly 25-acre site on the facility's southwestern fringe.

Farlow didn't know which Air Force arm carried out the experiments at Brooks, but he said it almost certainly was one of its research missions — possibly Armstrong Laboratories, which conducted medical research and eventually morphed into the Air Force Research Laboratory.

The carcasses of animals used for research at Brooks usually were incinerated. But Keith Muhlestein, Brooks' science and natural resources manager, said officials buried the carcasses in the landfill because the incinerator at the time had broken down.

Muhlestein said Brooks Development Authority officials have no plans to remove the barrels from the landfill.

"It wouldn't make sense to spend money on a non-issue," he said.

Word of the irradiated monkeys bubbled up not long after Mayor Phil Hardberger directed city staffers last month to evaluate Brooks as a potential location for a Texas A&M University campus — in addition to the city's preferred site at the southwestern quadrant of Loop 410 South and U.S. 281.

Assistant City Manager Chris Brady, who sits on the Brooks authority's board of directors, called the disclosure politically motivated, probably made by someone opposed to Brooks as a potential campus site.

The Air Force transferred the installation's 1,300 acres to city government in October 2002 in a redevelopment bid to prevent Brooks from landing on a closure list. The city-base concept aims to cut the military's expenses and to draw commercial, industrial and retail interests to Brooks.

*San Antonio Express News*

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Brady said city officials knew about the buried carcasses for a year before the transfer — though they didn't make a public disclosure.

"This issue was fully disclosed to the city as part of the transition," Brady said. City staffers weren't concerned because "it was contained, it was well-documented."

The landfill, he said, also is far from the portions of property that the Brooks authority promotes as developable.

*San Antonio Express News*

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# AETC News Clips

## AFIT Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio



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### EDITORIAL

#### ***AFIT showed well; it hasn't prevailed***

By the Dayton Daily News

Local advocates for the Air Force Institute of Technology arranged for a little side trip Tuesday for two members of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

They took them to the AFIT rooftop and pointed to the sprawling, eye-popping complex that is Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and pointed: All this, they said, is AFIT's classroom — the labs, the offices and the base culture.

The commissioners couldn't see the 2,000 researchers and engineers who work on base, but the point couldn't have been lost on them. By being physically situated on such an enormous base, AFIT students have resources they wouldn't have if the Air Force's graduate school were privatized, or if AFIT were moved to the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif., where that school sits by its lonesome.

Because AFIT was added to the list for possible closure by the BRAC commission itself — not the Department of Defense — the rules require that two commissioners come to Wright-Patterson to see the affected facility for themselves. Commissioners Lloyd W. "Fig" Newton and Samuel Skinner came Tuesday.

They saw and heard compelling things, but the institution is by no means out of the woods. Everywhere the commissioners are touring, they're hearing heartfelt and strong cases for why closing a facility would be a loss.

The disturbing thing that's come to light in this information-gathering process is the alleged errors in a supposedly objective scoring system BRAC uses to measure costs and benefits. In the minds of local supporters, AFIT, when compared with the Naval Postgraduate School, has been rated incorrectly on everything from its proximity to an airport to the availability of base housing to the number of commands and organizations that share facilities and expertise with the school.

The Air Force supplies the data that BRAC is relying on, and somebody should have to account for why BRAC is getting one set of facts from the people on the ground here and another from the service itself. Especially U.S. Reps. Mike Turner and Dave Hobson should be infuriated.

Local defenders of AFIT fell all over themselves Tuesday not to say that the Naval Postgraduate School should be moved to Wright-Patterson; they confined their pitch to explaining the hard and soft costs of closing AFIT altogether or moving it to Monterey.

But Commissioner Skinner didn't tiptoe. He asked what it would cost to move the Navy's school to Dayton. It's an obvious question, and next week when Monterey gets its shot at defending its school, that community is going to make its arguments with all the passion Dayton showed.

Lots of important points were made on AFIT's behalf, but a slightly ironic moment occurred when University of Dayton President Dan Curran said privatizing military graduate education isn't smart. UD, of course, benefits from having AFIT in its back yard — AFIT and UD faculty and students collaborate, AFIT students take classes at UD.

But he was being truthful in saying that some things Air Force grad students need simply can't be done at all, or quickly enough, at civilian institutions. There are national security issues, and the focus and culture are unavoidably different. Somehow you'd think that point would carry weight with military minds.

An important dog-and-pony show on behalf of AFIT is over. The work to protect it is not done.

Find this article at: <http://www.daytondailynews.com/opinion/content/opinion/daily/0804brac.html>

*Air Force Times*

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# AETC News Clips

## Columbus AFB, Miss.



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### View from squad car amazes local citizens

By Earl Descant  
edescant@cdispach

When a few local citizens were able to sneak a peek of Columbus from the inside of a police squad car, they walked away with a slightly different view of their neighborhoods and more importantly, their police officers.

"It was a hell of a night," said **S o n i c Johnson**, chief of public affairs at Columbus Air Force Base, and a student in this year's class of the Columbus Citizens'



Johnson



Bean

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*The Commercial Dispatch*

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# AETC News Clips

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### Police

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#### Police Academy.

As part of a requirement for completion of the Citizens' Police Academy – a Columbus Police Department outreach program designed to expose average citizens to the everyday day life of the Police Department – each student accompanies a police officer in his patrol car for an entire weekend shift.

The students and the officers never know what the evening has in store, but whatever level of mayhem the city dishes out, nearly all CPA students, many of them long-time residents, agree their night cruising Columbus in a patrol car gave them a behind-the-scenes look into a city not nearly as taciturn and calm as they thought.

Johnson was in the squad car with Columbus Police Officer Lt. Rick Sturdivant when they responded to a call about 10 p.m. Friday to assist officer Robert Arendt, who stopped a vehicle for careless driving on Military Road when the driver, Sarah Wingard, and a passenger stepped out of the vehicle.

According to a police report, a scuffle broke out between Arendt and the passenger, Devione Williams, who had what turned out to be a stolen gun. Williams managed to run off.

In the car with Arendt was CPA student John Bean, who runs Harvey's, Sweet Peppers Deli and Market and The Grill at Jackson Square. Bean also serves as president of the Columbus Convention and Visitors' Board.

"We had been riding with Robert about 10 minutes, riding up Military Road in front of Lee Middle School, and a car swerved in our lane," recalled Bean.

"Almost hit us. Robert had to veer. Told me to hold on. He whipped the car around, and pulled into shopping center across from Lee Middle," con-

tinued Bean, recounting the events of his night on patrol.

By the time Johnson and Sturdivant arrived, a chase had evolved in area around 17th Avenue North.

"He (Williams) drew the gun out of his waistband but didn't point it at me," said Arendt.

"I said, 'you need to drop it,' and he threw it down," Arendt added.

Williams dropped the gun behind the Sunflower grocery store, and officers finally caught up with him at a Shell gas station on Military Road, arresting him for possession of a stolen fire arm. Wingard was later located at her residence on Luxapalila Drive and charged with driving under a suspended license.

All of this activity went down while the CPA students remained safely in the squad car out of harm's way.

"I remembered J.D. Sanders' first rule: You do not get out of the police car," stressed Johnson.

Since the night was still young, and Sturdivant would be tied up with paperwork, Johnson headed off with officer Tommy King.

The two immediately drove upon an incident in Southside, where 20-30 people were crowding the street, surrounding two women arguing and fighting.

King radioed in the incident, asking for backup, and then began managing the entire street scene solo, said Johnson.

"He would turn his back here, and then she (one of the women) would turn around and hit the other lady," recalled Johnson.

In both incidents where chaos seemed to be gaining ground faster than some sense of calm and control, Johnson would have liked to help, wondering if he should at least offer assistance by answering the radio.

"But again, I remembered back in the Air Force, you don't want a rookie manning your radio. It was the same thing here, so I left it alone," said Johnson, a former Air Force pilot.

In the end, King proved to be well-trained, and managed the brawl without his CPA co-pilot.

"It was really impressive to see his skills and how professional Officer King reacted," said Johnson. "He was completely in control."

Both women eventually earned themselves public intoxication charges, said Johnson.

After leaving the Southside, the ride turned into a normal Friday night, with the routine checks on high-traffic areas like the Holiday Inn on Highway 45.

"Just mostly to show a police presence and to keep an eye on things," said Johnson.

Then around bar-closing time, action picked up. A reveler from Fat Daddy's, a nightclub in the Holiday Inn, climbed in his white Toyota pick-up and drove into a utility pole guy-wire, damaging the pole and transformer, sending the hotel, the Waffle House restaurant next door and surrounding businesses into darkness, recalled Johnson.

However, this was not until the truck's driver, a Macon resident, hit another car, banging his face on the steering wheel.

Evidence collected from the scene suggested the patron was intoxicated.

"Oh, he blew a .29," said Johnson, making reference to man's blood-alcohol level.

The man was taken to Baptist Memorial Hospital-Golden Triangle, where he was treated and Johnson expects, promptly arrested.

"Baptist Hospital in the middle of the night on a weekend is crazy place," reflected Johnson. "Who'd think? I mean this is Columbus. It's like these completely different people come out at night."

Johnson and King then received a report of, "a body in the ditch on 45."

The body in the ditch turned out to be a heavily intoxicated middle-aged woman – more delirious and disoriented than injured or dangerous.

"She was out cold," said Johnson.

What amazed Johnson was the officers' course of action. Rather than taking the easy road and hauling the woman downtown, they tried to first get

her to safety. "That's what was impressive, they took the time to find a solution for these folks," said Johnson.

"It meant putting in a call to her son, whose number ended up being disconnected, and then calling someone else to get a hold of him," Johnson continued. "They really tried to help her, and it wasn't the easy way."

*Dispatch reporter Kristin Mamrack contributed to this report.*



# AETC News Clips

## Luke AFB, Ariz.



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### ***Veterans want to save commissaries from chopping block***

By: **RAMESH SANTANAM** (Wed, Aug/03/2005)

OAKDALE, Pa. - Keith Cramer has been patronizing a suburban Pittsburgh commissary for the past 35 years to stock up on groceries and household items. But the 73-year-old's routine might soon change if the commissary and post exchange at the Army's Charles E. Kelly Support Facility close as part of the new round of base closings.

"I'd have to go to Carlisle (Pa.) or Dayton (Ohio). The cost of gasoline and the distance prohibits that," said Cramer, sitting on the back fender of his pickup truck.

Commissaries function as regular grocery stores, "except we're not here to make money," said Ray Pelletier, Kelly Commissary administrator.

The Department of Defense wants to save billions by streamlining operations, which includes shutting down commissaries. Opponents insist their closure would harm tens of thousands of military personnel, especially retirees, who rely on them.

"It's quite a benefit to veterans to be able to buy food cheaply," said Harry Johnston, an 81-year-old veteran loading his minivan with groceries. "If you take that away, it's going to cost us more."

If the Kelly facility closes, Johnston and Cramer said it would be too costly to drive to either of the two closest commissaries - 220 miles west at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, and 150 miles east in Carlisle.

Local and state officials want the Pentagon to keep the 26,650-square-foot Kelly commissary and post exchange open or build a new one on vacant land about 10 miles away in Moon Township.

It is one of 270 U.S. military commissaries worldwide. Last fiscal year, they generated \$5.2 billion in sales in more than 94 million transactions, according to Cherie Huntington, spokeswoman for the Defense Commissary Agency East in Little Creek, Va.

The Kelly Commissary's sales totaled \$7.2 million last fiscal year, she said. The commissary at Fort Belvoir, Va., generated the most sales - \$87 million; Camp Kure's, near Hiroshima, Japan, brought in the least, \$100,000.

Agency officials did not know how many commissaries are slated to be closed. They referred questions to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission; officials there did not immediately return phone calls Tuesday afternoon.

Commissaries are part of the defense department. Most employees are federal civil service workers, Huntington said. The agency's Marketing Business Unit buys most of the products and sets prices in agreement with vendors.

***Phillyburbs.com***

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Shoppers do not pay sales tax, but a 5 percent surcharge to pay for renovations and construction of commissaries, Huntington said.

Active duty and reserve forces - serving or retired - and their families can buy everything from trash bags to meat and produce at discounted prices.

At the Kelly Commissary, about 10 miles southwest of Pittsburgh, a dozen eggs cost 66 cents; a gallon of whole milk, \$2.19.

At a suburban supermarket about 12 miles away, eggs were 99 cents a dozen, and a gallon of whole milk was selling for \$3.14.

Those who want to save commissaries from the defense department's chopping block say retirees would be most harmed.

About 69,000 people shop at the Kelly Commissary annually, Pelletier said. Most customers, some of whom travel more than 100 miles, are retirees or reservists.

Nationwide, military retirees find themselves in similar predicaments.

More than 30,000 retirees and dependents use services at the Fort Monmouth, N.J., base; about 2,700 use the medical clinic at Ellsworth Air Force Base in Rapid City, S.D., and 80,000 to 100,000 military retirees in the Phoenix area depend on services at Luke Air Force Base in Glendale.

"The people they're shafting are the World War II and Korean War veterans because they're on fixed incomes," Bill Premro said.

"Why would they close something that helps a lot of people and the economy?" asked the 56-year-old Washington, Pa., veteran.





# AETC News Clips

## Sheppard AFB, Texas



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**05-Aug 05**

### **Veterans push for clinic at Sheppard**

#### **Prospects of project not lost on leaders**

**By Michael Hines**  
**Times Record News**  
**August 5, 2005**

There are no plans for Sheppard Air Force Base's hospital to become a veterans' clinic. But maybe there needs to be, according to some local veterans.

The Disabled American Veterans organization hopes to explore the issue during a 10 a.m. meeting Saturday at 804 Seventh St. Ted Bowman, DAV secretary, said he has spoken informally with base staff members and they've seemed receptive to the idea.

The idea is to occupy the hospital after it is abandoned for a new clinic that may be built later on, he said.

"Sheppard Hospital is going to be vacated," he said, adding that a clinic could be built two years from now.

SAFB officials would only say that a new clinic was a future project. Nothing imminent is planned, said Lt. Rachel Smith, SAFB spokeswoman, particularly in terms of a VA clinic.

"Preliminary discussions took place yesterday; however, a decision has not been made yet and officials are seeking more information," she said Thursday by way of e-mail.

It's certainly not from a lack of need, Bowman points out.

There are 15,000 veterans locally, he said. There has been a waiting list to get services at the Veteran's Clinic of North Texas for years. The clinic treats about 2,300 patients. Another 200 are on the waiting list.

"So let's do away with these waiting lists," he said.

It's not the only time the idea of bringing a VA hospital to the city has come up recently.

Back in May, hospital officials announced a \$73 million plan to expand and consolidate United Regional Health Care System. Under the plan, all services go to the 11th Street campus and the Eighth Street location may be razed or serve some different purpose. Ideas have included a Veterans Affairs hospital or nursing home-styled facility. The VA hospital idea prompted County Judge Woody Gossom to talk to VA officials in Oklahoma City about the possibility. He's even considered asking the county to help subsidize some care.

At the same time, many veterans must go to Oklahoma for care at the Oklahoma City Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Many depend on the Disabled American Veterans van service.

About seven years ago, officials attempted to bring a VA nursing home into the city. The proposal was rejected as the VA chose locations where VA hospitals existed. Local officials tried again two or three

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years ago. The effort ended because it didn't rank well on the point system used to assess the merits of such efforts.

The VA clinic idea wouldn't be the only item participants discuss on Saturday, Bowman said. Topics could range from the possible VA hospital to budget shortfalls for the national VA organization.

"I want everybody who is interested" to attend, Bowman said. "We'll be talking about issues completely broad range."

*Times Record News*  
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